

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the claims were objected to because they contain reference characters which are not enclosed in parentheses. Claims 1-4 have been amended to include parentheses around the reference numerals. Applicants believe these amendments are fully responsive to the Examiner's concerns.

Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify it, and to correct grammatical and formal errors. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in Fig. 1 of the present application.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,456,035 (Crisp). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crisp in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,233,284 (Mattsson). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

The present invention relates to an AC power supply adaptor device that provides uninterruptible DC power by switching in a battery when the AC power is interrupted. Regarding the anticipation rejection of independent claim 1 based on Crisp, this reference does not disclose or even suggest several limitations of claim 1, including the recited line for supplying voltage via a DC-DC conversion circuit, the recited apparatus status output circuit, and the recited output voltage changeover switch.

Claim 1 requires a line for supplying a voltage to a DC output circuit via a DC-DC conversion circuit which increases and decreases the voltage. Crisp cannot disclose this recited line, because it does not have a DC-DC conversion circuit for increasing and decreasing voltage.

Referring now to Fig. 1 of the present application, the DC-DC conversion circuit 16 is for changing the level of a voltage coming from the battery 14. Crisp does not teach any device that changes the voltage level coming from a battery. Crisp relates to a battery charger to provide a charge to a battery. As such, Crisp does not condition voltage coming *from* a battery, as does the claimed invention.

Claim 1 also requires “an apparatus status output circuit for outputting a status monitoring signal to the outside”. Crisp does not disclose such a circuit. The Office Action’s cited passage of Crisp (col. 4:26-38) teaches that its microcontroller U1 monitors the status of the battery being charged, and thereby controls the charging operation via power switch 34. However, Crisp does not teach or even suggest outputting a status monitoring signal to the outside, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 further requires an output changeover switch for switching a set-up voltage, which is connected to the AC-DC conversion circuit and the DC-DC conversion circuit. Crisp does not disclose such a switch. The claimed changeover switch 19 (see Fig. 1 of the present application) is for changing output voltage. Crisp’s battery charger does not perform this function. It can only deliver a single output voltage. The switch driver 70 of Crisp, which is analogized in the Office Action to the claimed changeover switch, is taught to turn power switch 34 on and off responsive to a signal from microcontroller U1 (see Crisp at col. 4:63 to col. 5:3). Crisp’s switch driver 70 is not connected to an AC-DC conversion circuit and a DC-DC conversion circuit, as required by claim 1. As discussed above, Crisp does not have the recited DC-DC conversion circuit, so it cannot disclose a switch connected a DC-DC conversion circuit, as claimed.

Crisp does not anticipate independent claim 1, because it does not disclose each and every element of that claim. In particular, Crisp does not disclose or suggest claim 1's recited line for supplying voltage via a DC-DC conversion circuit, apparatus status output circuit, or output voltage changeover switch. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to modify Crisp to add these features.

Consequently, independent claim 1 is patentable, as are claims 2 and 3, which depend from claim 1.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of claim 4 based on Crisp and Mattsson, the Mattsson reference does not furnish the elements of claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, missing from Crisp. Therefore, any combination of Crisp and Mattsson, however made, would be missing the recited line for supplying voltage via a DC-DC conversion circuit, apparatus status output circuit, and output voltage changeover switch, and it would not have been obvious to add these features to any Crisp/Mattsson combination.

Consequently, claim 4 is patentable.

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/812,948

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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